

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-based system for recording registration information related to a user, comprising:
 - a. a commerce server in communication with a source of registration information, said commerce server electronically providing a registration form for completion by a user;
 - b. at least one database in communication with said commerce server, said at least one database adapted to receive and store registration information transmitted by said commerce server;wherein said commerce server transmits registration information to said at least one database for storage therein only upon completion of said registration form by said user.
2. A computer-based system according to claim 1, wherein said commerce server is included in a redundant array of commerce servers.
3. A computer-based system according to claim 1, wherein said registration information includes data selected from the group consisting of user name, password, mailing address, e-mail address, media player, media format and combinations thereof.
4. A computer-based system according to claim 1, wherein said registration information includes information related to a mode of payment.
5. A computer-based system according to claim 5, wherein said commerce server is in electronic communication with a credit bureau, and said

information related to a mode of payment is automatically transmitted to said credit bureau upon receipt from a user.

6. A computer-based system according to claim 1, wherein said at least one database is a commerce database.

5 7. A computer-based system according to claim 1, further comprising an LDAP database, and wherein said registration information is transmitted to said LDAP database for storage therein.

8. A computer-based system according to claim 7, further comprising an SQL database, and wherein said registration information is transmitted to said SQL database for storage therein.

10 9. A computer-based system according to claim 1, wherein registration information transmitted by said commerce server to said at least one database is exclusively cached in the RAM of an LDAP database.

15 10. A computer-based system for controlling access to restricted content, comprising:

- a. at least one web server in network communication with at least one potential user of said restricted content;
- b. at least one database in communication with said at least one web server, said at least one database containing registration information that controls a potential user's access to said restricted information;

20

5

10

15

20

c. at least one media server in communication with said at least one web server for delivering restricted content to a potential user;

wherein said at least one web server automatically queries said at least one database to determine a potential user's access to said restricted content upon receipt of a request from said potential user; and

wherein said at least one web server automatically queries said at least one database to determine whether said at least one media server is currently delivering restricted content to said potential user.

11. A computer-based system according to claim 10, wherein said at least one web server is included in a redundant array of web servers.

12. A computer-based system according to claim 10, wherein said at least one database is an LDAP database.

13. A computer-based system according to claim 12, further comprising a commerce database and an SQL database.

14. A computer-based system according to claim 12, wherein said registration information is stored exclusively in RAM of said LDAP database.

15. A computer-based system according to claim 10, further comprising at least one commerce server, and wherein said registration information is supplied by a potential user to said commerce server.

16. A computer-based system according to claim 10, wherein said at least one web server prevents said potential user from accessing said restricted content if said potential user is currently receiving restricted content from said at least one media server.

5 17. A computer-based method for registering a potential user and controlling access to restricted content, comprising:

- a. communicating a registration form to said potential user across a computer network;
- b. receiving registration information related to said registration form from said potential user and storing said registration information in a database only after said registration form is completed by said potential user;
- c. receiving a request for access to restricted content from said potential user; and
- d. verifying said potential user's access to said restricted content before transmitting said restricted content to said potential user.

10 18. A method according to claim 17, wherein said verification of said potential user's access includes determining whether said potential user is currently receiving restricted content.

15 19. A method according to claim 17, further comprising delivering restricted content to said potential user based on said verification.

20. A method according to claim 17, further comprising automatically verifying a proposed payment mode provided by said potential user in connection with receiving said registration information from said potential user.

5